

Claims

- [c1] A locking ring for preventing relative axial rotation between two generally tubular members, said ring being shaped to receive a sealing gasket and having two side faces wherein each side face is shaped to frictionally engage one of said tubular members to thereby prevent relative axial rotation between said tubular members.
- [c2] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein each side face is generally smooth.
- [c3] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein said locking ring has an inner diameter sized to receive said sealing gasket by an interference fit.
- [c4] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein said locking ring has an inner surface having an annular groove formed therein to receive said sealing gasket.
- [c5] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein each side face has one or more protrusions extending forwardly of each respective side face, each of said one or more protrusions being shaped to frictionally engage one of said tubular members.

- [c6] The locking ring of claim 5 wherein said one or more protrusions comprise knurling on the respective side face.
- [c7] The locking ring of claim 5 wherein at said one or more protrusions comprise one or more raised ridges.
- [c8] The locking ring of claim 7 wherein said one or more raised ridges each extend generally radially.
- [c9] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein one of said side faces has a groove formed therein.
- [c10] The locking ring of claim 9 wherein said groove extends generally radially.
- [c11] The locking ring of claim 9 wherein said groove forms a pair of generally radially-extending edges.
- [c12] The locking ring of claim 9 wherein said groove forms an angle with a radially-extending line.
- [c13] The locking ring of claim 9 wherein the other of said side faces has a groove formed therein.
- [c14] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein each side face has at least two radially extending grooves formed therein, and wherein said grooves are equally radially spaced.
- [c15] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein said ring is of harder

material than said tubular members.

- [c16] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein said ring is stainless steel.
- [c17] The locking ring of claim 1 wherein said side faces are inclined with respect to a radial plane.
- [c18] The locking ring of claim 17 wherein said side faces are oppositely inclined such that the width of said ring decreases in the radially outward direction.
- [c19] The locking ring of claim 18 wherein said inclination is 10 degrees.
- [c20] A coupling comprising:
 - two generally tubular members each having a sealing end face and an inner bore, said tubular members being generally coaxially arranged such that said sealing faces face each other;
 - a locking ring located between said sealing faces for preventing relative rotation therebetween, said ring having two side faces, each side face being shaped and located to frictionally engage one of said tubular members;
 - and
 - a sealing gasket received in said locking ring for sealing said coupling.